



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
January 27, 2004

Members Present: George Greenidge - *President*, Robert Kinney - *Vice President*, Mike Foley - *Treasurer*, Gloria Coney - Clerk, Joe-Lee Baker-Bey, Julia Flashner, Michael Glavin, Mark Maloney, Elizabeth Miranda, Lila Reid, Jayne Talbot, Frederick Umeh and Roberta Williams

Members Absent: Ralph Cooper, Betty Greene, Charlotte Golar-Richie, Juanita Wade, Thomas Yee

BCI Staff: Christine Araujo, Sherry O'Brien

EDIC Staff: Ken Barnes and Michelle Trousil

Ex-Officios: Senator Dianne Wilkerson,

Guests: Keith Hunt, Office of Business Development, Cheryl Snyder

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To accept minutes of the December 16, 2003 Business Meeting.
By: Mr. Glavin **Second:** Mr. Foley
Recused: 0 **Abstained:** 0 **Opposed:** 0
Motion: Carried

Motion: To accept minutes of the January 14, 2004 Nominating Committee meeting
By: Mr. Baker-Bey **Second:** Mr. Foley
Recused: 0 **Abstained:** 0 **Opposed:** 0
Motion: Carried

Motion: To accept minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 14, 2004
By: Ms. Flashner **Second:** Ms. Coney
Recused: 0 **Abstained:** 0 **Opposed:** 0
Motion: Carried

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Greenidge welcomed all to his first meeting as President. He expressed his excitement at his new role. He thanked everyone for the positive Annual Meeting and went on to say that the remarks from Congressman Lynch were heartening as he told his own story of growing up in South Boston housing development and finding his own way. He stated his anticipation that this would be a prosperous year for Boston Connects. One of his goals for the coming year was to start meetings on time. He suggested that some of the priorities for the coming year include: marketing and fundraising; Board development; and increasing Board Committee membership and volunteerism. He also stated that the Board, organization and Executive Director establish measurable goals for the year. Upon his request, Committee chairs introduced themselves and gave a brief



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston

description of the committee and their goals. He then requested that all Board Members sign up for a committee on the sign-up sheet. He reminded members that all Committee Chairs are members of the Executive Committee. Board members were also requested to update their contact information and identify the best way to contact them. He also requested of Mayor Menino's staff that the vacant appointed Board positions be filled.

As one of the priorities to make BCI a household name, he suggested that the Board have a "Visioning" exercise to reach consensus on goals for this year. He suggested a half day Saturday meeting. Discussion ensued about meeting days and times, and it was decided that a survey would go out to Board members to choose a convenient time to meet. Ms. Coney commented that the Board needed to understand the fiduciary responsibilities and be trained on how to properly read a financial statement. She went on to say that a training she participated in at Harvard Business school gave her confidence in reading and understanding a financial statement. In light of the fact that EDIC provides Administration & Finance services to BCI, Mr. Maloney mentioned that EDIC staff could meet with any interested members to review and explain the audit, and to assist with other fiscal/budget questions. Mr. Baker-Bey pointed out to the Board that some members cannot get around because of health reasons and wondered if the Board could offer one way cab service to members not able to get to meetings.

Mr. Greenidge suggested that BCI develop a Board Manual and will follow up with the Executive Committee. He offered to bring a Board Manual to the next meeting that will respond to those types of situations on a Board and how best to handle them. Mr. Greenidge went on to say that as a Board there was a lot of work to be done and that Board Development Training could be enlightening and mentioned that United Way and the Executive Service Corp do on-site training. He will get information to the Board on these trainings.

Motion: To authorize staff to schedule a Board "Visioning Meeting" in a month to discuss goals and the direction of BCI.

By: Mr. Foley

Second: Ms. Talbot

Recused:0

Abstained:0

Opposed:0

Motion: Carried

Mr. Greenidge spoke about the need to bring closure to the disclosure of interest statement. Ms. Hilferty, Ms. Wade and Sen. Wilkerson have been working on it and the draft was in the board packages. Members reviewed it and a discussion ensued. Mr. Glavin asked if it had a legal review. Consensus was that an objective legal opinion would not hurt. Clarification was made that in the by-laws reference to "Director" meant Board Member. Reference was made to the fact that Item # 7 in the Guidelines appear to be in conflict with Section 7.01 (b) of the by-laws. Discussion centered on Item #6 in the Guidelines on whether a Board member is asked, or encouraged to leave the room prior to a vote. If the board member leaves how would a quorum be impacted. Need for greater clarity in Item # 3 in the Guidelines on "family member living in the same household." Mr. Maloney offered the services of EDIC legal counsel to review the Conflict of Interest draft.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms Araujo expressed her delight on the Annual Meeting, and was pleased with the attendance given the cold weather. She mentioned that the President had signed the consolidated appropriations act into law and that each Round II Empowerment Zone was to receive \$994,000 for the federal fiscal year which started in October. Ms. Araujo went on to say that the Crosstown information session and open house on the permanent jobs at both Pilgrim Garage and Hampton Inn in December was successful, 160 applications were received, 60 from EZ residents. Board members spoke of the need for specific outreach to churches and community groups, and perhaps a public announcement to



assure that EZ residents get considered for the employment at these sites. There was also discussion around barriers such as the CORI affecting some EZ residents.

Ms. Araujo reminded members that another Tax Incentive workshop is being planned with the assistance of DND staff. Brief discussion followed on the great benefit of these tax advantages for any EZ employee and encouraged the Board to continue to spread the word.

On the staffing front, Ms. Araujo stated that Ms. Carrington is out on a medical leave of absence through mid-March. The Board wished her a speedy recovery and agreed to send her flowers. Mr. Foley volunteered to follow up. Ms. O'Brien would assume the bulk of the responsibility with assistance from Ms. Trousil.

4. COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bakey Bey presented a brief Community Capacity Building report. He discussed the proposal for Training and Professional Development which had been approved by the Board on June 25, 2002 for \$75,000. The Committee recommended the reallocation of the unspent \$4,000 from the Grantwriting program and additionally the allocation of \$1,000 from the unallocated resources in Goal D for a total of \$80,000 for the Management Consulting Training Program.

Clarification was requested to ensure that the \$1,000 was from the unprogrammed fund in the Capacity Building goal. In response to the question on how many community and faith based organizations would be impacted, Mr. Baker Bey stated that while he could not say an exact number he was confident that community based and faith based organization would benefit.

Motion: To authorize the Executive Director to reallocate \$4,000 from the Grantwriting program to the Management Consulting Program, additionally the allocation of \$1,000 from the unallocated resources in Goal D. Thus a total of \$80,000 is available for the Management Consulting Training Program.

By: Mr. Umeh

Second: Ms. Flashner

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

5. PROCUREMENT

Ms. Araujo presented the procurement for the Microloan and Technical Assistance program. A total of \$550,000 was available to provide such to approximately 135 businesses. The proposal was to fund Dorchester Bay Economic Corporation for \$100,000 to provide Technical Assistance.

Board Members question centered on the mechanism for payment, and the interest rate proposed. Sen. Wilkerson announced that she had heard a number of negative reports about Dorchester Bay Economic Development. She was personally aware of the situation when a family member applied for a loan and on several occasions attempted to contact staff by phone without success. Never speaking to staff they actually got rejected for the loan by e-mail. She suggested that the Board do more research on this agency before granting them a contract. Mr. Glavin, as Chair of the Economic Committee offered to host an informational meeting with Dorchester Bay Economic Development to get answers about their institution. He invited interested board members to attend the meeting.

Mr. Foley asked if the vote should go forward and give the Economic Development Committee the authorization to make a decision after the informational meeting. Mr. Glavin pointed out that this in fact has been done on a number of occasions, however, it was agreed that the Committee will report back at the next board meeting, February 24,



2004 and at that time a vote will be taken.

Mr. Greenidge closed the meeting by asking Board Members to participate in a plus delta exercise where Board members identify what they liked about the meeting and what they would like to change. Results are as follows:

Positive

Participation was high
The meeting had a good and quick pace
Great sense of Humor
There was good attendance
There were laying out set goals and charts
Lists were passed around: committee & addresses

Change

Consider having votes done early

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

A true record attest:

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston